

JORDAN TIMES

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Monday Jordan marks 40th day since Queen Alya's death

AMMAN. — On Monday Jordan marks the traditional 40th day of mourning since the passing of Her Majesty the late Queen Alya. Prayers will be said at the late Queen's grave and flower wreaths will be laid on the grave. The mourning is reserved for the royal family, high ranking government officials and religious leaders. The public may pay its respects at the grave from 12:00 noon onwards. Prayers will be said in mosques and church bells will be rung throughout the kingdom. A special religious celebration will be held at Raghdan Palace in the evening to mark the occasion.

Aden, UAE condemn Israel

ADEN, March 19 (R). — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and South Yemen said today the situation in the Middle East was still dangerous and threatened world peace. This is because of the expansionist and aggressive policy followed by Israel and the forces standing behind it, a joint statement issued after a three-day session in Aden by the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan said. The statement affirmed the two countries' strong support for the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The two sides also expressed confidence that "it is urgent and just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved unless Israel withdrew completely from all occupied Arab territories."

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Sarkis, truce team try to put lid on situation in Lebanon

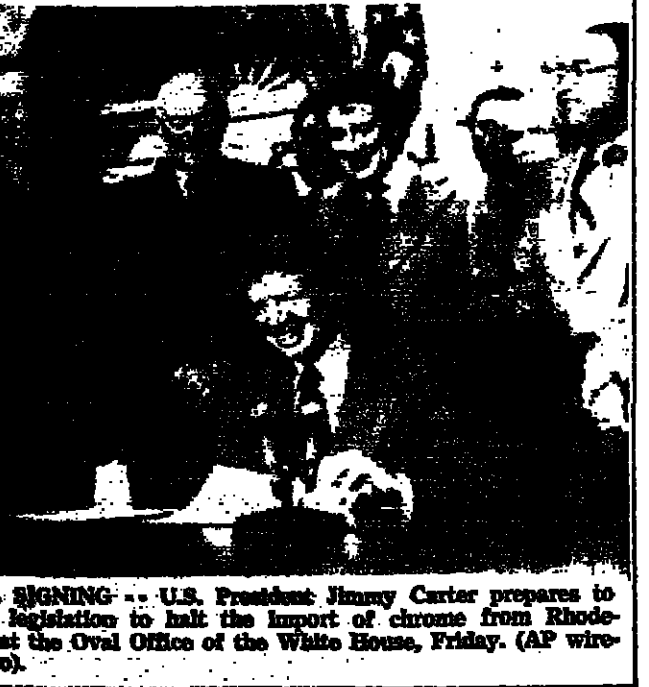
BEIRUT, March 19 (R). — President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon today with the four-truce committee — made representatives of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Kuwait — said efforts to prevent assassination of leftist leader Jumblatt from touting new fighting. The committee was set up by Sarkis's Cairo conference in ways of ending the civil war raging in the country. Sarkis said the committee was set up to ensure the arrest of men to have taken part in the first rush of fury Mr. Jumblatt's murder. Sarkis said there was very fast positive action, it would be to restrain members of a victim's families from revenge, National Libe-

10 suspected sectarian killers arrested in Lebanon

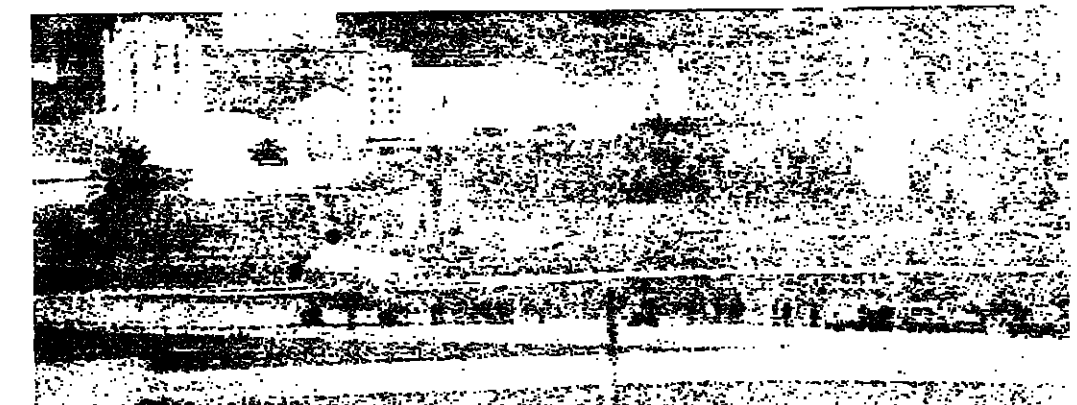
BEIRUT, March 19 (R). — Ten people have been arrested in connection with Wednesday night's massacre of Christians following the murder of leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt. Sources said today that the arrests will help to bring Christian leaders and their supporters from revenge on Mr. Jumblatt's Druze community, which has long been a hotbed of sectarian violence in the Shouf region. President Elias Sarkis conferred today with the four-truce committee to ensure the arrest of men to have taken part in the first rush of fury Mr. Jumblatt's murder. Sarkis said there was very fast positive action, it would be to restrain members of a victim's families from revenge, National Libe-

African opposition parties declare unity

ADDIS ABABA, March 19 (R). — African opposition political parties issued a programme of action aimed at forming a new coalition on the basis of equal rights for all racial groups in South Africa. The United and Democratic Parties were then involved in talks with the liberal-leading Progressive Reform Party (PRP). Informed sources said at the time that while the PRP supported a concept of blacks and whites sharing power at all levels, the United Party wanted a built-in guarantee against black majority rule. The declaration of intent issued tonight said "politically, all citizens will share a common loyalty to South Africa, have equitable and responsible participation in decision-making and be safeguarded against domination of any group by another group." It envisaged a "federal-confederal constitution structure" which would allow this.



SIGNING — U.S. President Jimmy Carter prepares to sign legislation to halt the import of chrome from Rhodesia at the Oval Office of the White House, Friday. (AP wirephoto)



UNDER HEAVY GUARD — The Turkish Airlines Boeing 707 surrounded, at Beirut International Airport, by Arab peace-keeping forces Friday (AP wirephoto).

Teenage Turkish hijackers surrender peacefully to Lebanese police

BEIRUT, March 19 (R). — Two 18-year-old Turks who hijacked a Turkish airliner to Beirut surrendered today without a shot being fired, Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss said. He said a police major boarded the plane and persuaded the youths to give themselves up peacefully. The plane's passengers — mostly Turks and variously estimated to number between 118 and 182 people — had been allowed to go free after the jet landed at Beirut. The aircraft, a Boeing 727, was hijacked earlier today over Diyarbakir, eastern Turkey, while on an internal flight. The youths, armed with pistols, forced the plane to fly south. It landed here after radioing that it was running out of fuel. The hijackers demanded that money should be delivered to a Palestinian refugee camp and also pressed for a meeting with a Palestinian official, Lebanese officials said. But Mr. Al Hoss told reporters that none of the demands were met. Mr. Al Hoss personally took charge of the four-hour emergency arrangements at Beirut airport after the Boeing landed. The prime minister said the hijackers were taken into custody by Lebanese security forces.

Djibouti will become independent on June 27

PARIS, March 19 (AFP). — The round table conference on Djibouti ended here today with a reported agreement on pre-independence procedures, fixing June 27 as independence day for the French-held Red Sea territory. An official statement said agreement had been reached with the "main delegations" of the territory of Afars and Issas — named after its two nomadic ethnic groups — for general elections to be held on May 8, coinciding with an independence referendum. But the Issa-dominated, Somali Coast Liberation Front (FLCS) shunned the closing session, and Senator Barkat Gourat, an Afar and head of the parliamentary majority, walked out. Both boycotted a reception of the delegation given by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing at which the French head of state expressed satisfaction at the "spirit of union" which had marked the talks and re-affirmed that France was ready to "guarantee the external security of the new state."

Sen. Gourat said: "Djibouti's independence has begun badly, the French government wanted to present us with a fait accompli. The spokesman for the African People's League for Independence (LPAI), Ahmed Dial, however, backed the agreement, describing the conference as a "total success". French sources said that the agreement had also been supported by the Afar National Independence Union (UNI) splinter group attending the talks and by territorial Premier Abdallah Kamil, an Afar. Several parties have boycotted the talks since they began here last month. These are conservative former Premier Ali Araf's section of the UNI, the leftist Afar People's Liberation Movement (MPL) and the Djibouti Liberation Movement (MLD) based in Ethiopia. These parties however are expected to be represented along with participants of the Paris talks at another independence party in Accra next week, sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). In Djibouti, the MPL and main UNI group rejected the results of the Paris talks. UNI President Ahmed Youssef, looking forward to the meeting in Ghana from March 28 to 31, said that African leaders should work to "form a durable national union."

Kamil Ali, president of the MPL which groups young Marxist-Leninists, said he expected to attend the Accra talks, adding: "The Paris agreements can not in any way bind the future of our country."

PNC delegates strive to break deadlock over political declaration

CAIRO, March 19 (R). — Doves and hawks at the Palestinian National Council (PNC) were locked in last-minute bargaining today over the wording of a political declaration expected to reflect a tougher Palestinian stand on Middle East peace efforts. The PNC last Saturday opened its first meeting since 1974 and was due to end its session tomorrow with the adoption of a series of resolutions. Delegates said that a marathon session outside the conference between leaders of moderate commando groups and the hard-line Rejection Front of organisations opposed to a political settlement of the Middle East conflict had not so far resulted in complete agreement although the gap between the two sides had been narrowed. The draft under discussion, put forward by the moderates, calls for an escalation of military operations against Israel and the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attend all international conferences on the Middle East, delegates said. A rival proposal by the radicals demanded the condemnation of "all resolutions leading to the recognition of the Zionist entity (Israel) and its right to exist." Informed sources said that one of the side issues discussed by a group of delegates until the early hours of the morning was how to reconcile the rival factions of one of the four Rejection Front groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC). The sources said no agreement on reconciling the two groups had been reached and their leaders, pro-Syrian Ahmed Jibril and his opponent Abu Al Abbas, had taken "inflexible stands." One of the biggest guerrilla groups under the umbrella of the PLO, Sa'iq, is tightly controlled and fully-financed by Syria. Delegates here said that attempts to include an additional Sa'iq member in the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian "cabinet", had run into fierce resistance from all other groups. After discussions which broke up at 3 a.m. today and resumed just before noon, the two sides were still deadlocked tonight on the wording of the political declaration. Commando sources said that a PNC delegation member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) had had talks yesterday with PFLP leader George Habash outside Egypt to seek the guerrilla chief's guidance. According to the sources, one of the main points of contention was the wording of a paragraph referring to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Rejection Front apparently insists it must be made clear that such a state should only be a first step towards the creation of a secular and democratic state in all of Palestine. In a separate development, a spokesman for the Lebanese leftist movement said here today that more than 100,000 inhabitants of southern Lebanon have fled from the fighting there in recent weeks. Mr. Nadim Abdul Samad, a member of the Lebanese Communist Party who came here to attend the current session of the PNC as an observer from the Lebanese leftist movement denounced what he termed "Arab silence over south Lebanon," and said that in the absence of any Arab action to solve the problems of the region.

Repolling ordered in eight more Indian constituencies

NEW DELHI, March 19 (R). — India's Election Commission today ordered partial repolling in eight northern constituencies as ruling and opposition parties complained of voter intimidation in the general elections. The opposition Janata Party alleged that its candidate in the Raipur constituency of Madhya Pradesh — where the ruling Congress Party candidate is Information Minister Vidyanagar Shukla — was attacked with knives last night and one of his helpers was wounded. And Congress General Secretary Mrs. Purabhi Mukherjee complained that stones were thrown at cars of ruling party workers in the Bagpat constituency of Uttar Pradesh state, where the opposition candidate is Janata Party Deputy Chairman Charan Singh. Voting in the third phase of the elections today was reported to be brisk as polling took place in 143 constituencies with a total electorate of over 75 million. The election ends tomorrow, though there will be repolling in a few areas on Monday. The Election Commission, an independent body which oversees the conduct of the ballot, ordered votes to be cast again at 18 polling stations in eight constituencies in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, following reports from returning officers that voting had been seriously affected by violence. The commission had already ordered fresh voting in 40 polling stations, mainly in northern India. Voting has now taken place in 508 of the 542 Lok Sabha (lower house) seats. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party has already won two seats uncontested, and polling for the remainder will take place tomorrow. First results are expected about noon tomorrow and will continue to pour in until late on Tuesday night. Elections also took place today for the state assembly in Kerala, on the southern tip of India. Kerala is governed by a coalition made up of the Congress Party, the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Moslem League. The united front faces an opposition group of the Marxist Communist Party (CPI-M), the Janata Party and a breakaway group of the Moslem League. There are 569 candidates for the 140 assembly seats, half of them independents.

Congolese president assassinated

BRAZZAVILLE, March 19 (Agencies). — Congolese President Marien Ngouabi was assassinated here yesterday by a suicide squad led by an ex-army captain who is now on the run, Brazzaville Radio announced today. The radio appealed to the population to give the authorities any information which might lead to the detention of the Squad's leader, named as Capt. Barthemy Kikadidi. The radio said the 39-year-old president, who seized power after an army-led coup in 1968, "died fighting, his weapon in his hand." In Kinshasa the voice of the Congolese revolution radio station reported that eleven Congolese military officers were today invested with full powers in Brazzaville following the assassination. The radio, monitored in the nearby Zaire capital, said the military committee was given full powers by the Central Committee of the ruling Congolese Labour Party. They were entrusted with administering the state, defending the Congo Republic's security, continuing the revolution and preparing funeral ceremonies for Maj. Ngouabi. The committee is to remain in power "until further order," the radio stated. The radio broadcast martial music throughout most of the day, notably recordings of the Soviet Red Army choir, interspersed with communiques informing the Congolese people of decisions taken by the military committee. (Tass, the official Soviet news agency, reported that measures decreed by the committee included a curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., the closing of the country's frontiers, a ban on all public demonstrations or meetings and one month of national mourning. "The military committee has called on the people to remain vigilant to safeguard national unity and to remain orderly and calm," Tass declared.) The Congolese Radio said that Capt. Kikadidi was close to former President Alphonse Massamba-Debat, who was head of state from 1963 until his resignation in September 1968, shortly before Maj. Ngouabi came to power. Two of the assassins were killed and two of the president's bodyguards died in a gun battle after Maj. Ngouabi was shot down in his residence, the radio reported. The radio said Maj. Ngouabi had returned to his residence at about 2 p.m. for lunch. The house is located inside the Congolese military high command compound. Shortly afterwards, the radio said, a Peugeot 404 car carrying four men arrived at the compound gates. One was a captain wearing the red beret of a paracommando, the radio said. The car passed a first checkpoint and then halted at a second checkpoint, where the captain produced papers identifying himself as Capt. Mosando, who had recently returned from the Soviet Union. Guards said the captain told them he had received an urgent summons from the president, the radio said. As soon as the four men were in the presence of the head of state, they opened fire. Maj. Ngouabi died instantly, hit in the head by several bullets, it added. The radio said the president's son was the first to try to resist the assassins. He was as-

Savage riots rip through Karachi

KARACHI, March 19 (R). — At least 30 people were reported killed and 150 injured today in savage, day-long riots in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. Tonight heavily armed troops enforced a curfew after the violence, which pushed the city to the brink of martial law and posed a serious challenge to the government of prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. A thick pall of smoke hung over Karachi all day and police frequently resorted to baton charges and tear gas in running battles with the mobs. Observers said demonstrations against Mr. Bhutto by the opposition, which accused him of rigging the general elections earlier this month, had now flared into open confrontation with his Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government. Opposition mobs rampaged through various parts of the city, burning, looting and causing massive damage. Government officials have declined to give any information on casualties, but the most reliable reports put the number of dead at a minimum of 30. In one gunbattle 13 people were killed in Karachi's Pathan Colony — so named because most of the inhabitants are Pathan tribesmen from the North West Frontier. Residents said the local leader of Mr. Bhutto's party had fired at a group of rival Pathan supporters demonstrating outside his house. The incensed Pathans immediately took up arms themselves, besieged the house and killed everyone inside. Reporters counted 13 bodies in the house before it was set alight, with the dead still inside. The PPP leader had eight bullet holes in his body, reporters added. In another part of the city, a second local PPP leader was reported killed and his house burned down. One report said he had been hung by his feet to a tree outside his home. Several opposition workers were said to have been killed by police bullets, but this could not be confirmed. One of the few Karachi opposition leaders still not arrested, Shah Faridul Haq, claimed at a press conference tonight that at least 50 people had been killed in the past 24 hours. Three cinemas, three banks, five apartment buildings, a government secretariat office and some 20 shops were set ablaze in the city. The biggest fire, at a giant state-owned motor vehicle assembly plant, destroyed more than 1,700 trucks, buses and vans worth an estimated \$25 million. Plant officials said they managed to save 1,000 vehicles, but they believed it was the heaviest loss in Pakistan's history. Troop reinforcements moved into the city in late afternoon, warning people through loudspeakers to observe the dusk-to-dawn curfew or risk being shot. The soldiers were cheered when they took over the main trouble-spots from hard-pressed police and paramilitary federal security forces, who were sent back to barracks. Tanks were kept at strategic points around the city but they were not patrolling the rubble-strewn streets which were blocked in many places by barricades.

MAKARIOS PREPARED TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE

NICOSIA, March 19 (AFP). — President Makarios said today he is prepared to accept a compromise on a solution to the Cypriot problem. It was the first time the Archbishop had indicated this since Turkish troops invaded the Mediterranean island in 1974. Speaking to the 14th Congress of Cypriot civil servants Archbishop Makarios said of next week's preliminary Cypriot contacts in Vienna: "We are after a solution to our problem safeguarding the independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Cyprus state. Within this framework, we are prepared for a compromise." He went on: "I want to stress that if there is a possibility of some agreement, the people will be asked to express their view. Nothing will be done behind the backs of the people." This was seen by observers to indicate there would soon be a referendum on the subject in the Greek-Cypriot zone if the Vienna talks prove positive. But Archbishop Makarios did not indicate when any referendum would take place, nor did he specify what exactly the people would be asked to decide on. Meanwhile Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot union leaders met today to discuss the resumption of operations in eight factories situated in the demarcation zone between the two communities. A communique released later stressed the need to stimulate the economy in order to reduce unemployment among both communities.

PRINCE HASSAN IS 30



Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday celebrates his 30th day. The Jordan Times extends its best wishes to His Highness on this happy occasion.

PRINCE HASSAN RECEIVES WEST BANK DELEGATION

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday received at the Royal Hashemite Court delegations representing the people of Nazareth district, the Naqb and Beersheba tribes and Triangle villages in occupied Palestine.

W. BANK WOMAN SENTENCED FOR LAND SALE

AMMAN (R). — The Council of Ministers today approved the death sentence against a citizen of the Israeli-occupied West Bank for selling property to Israel, the official Jordan News Agency said.

Work starts on 300 new telex lines

AMMAN (JNA). — The Telecommunications Corporation has started work on the installation of 300 new telex lines at the Amman telex centre.

Canadian parliamentarians arrive here

AMMAN (R). — A Canadian parliamentary delegation arrived here Saturday night on a visit to Jordan which will last a few days.

Meet starts on Arab air academy

AMMAN (JNA). — A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Civil Aviation Council began at Rabat Saturday to debate the establishment of an Arab aviation academy, mooted for Jordan.

Exchange Rates

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Includes U.K. sterling, U.S. dollar, German mark, French franc, Swiss franc, Italian lira, Saudi riyal, Lebanese pound, Syrian pound, Iraqi dinar, Kuwaiti dinar, Egyptian pound, Libyan dinar, UAE dirham.

What's Going On

The British Council presents Part 5 and Part 6 of the film series "Civilisation". Part 5: The Hero as Artist. Part 6: Protest and Communication. 6:30 p.m., Monday at the British Council Hall.

Ayyoub explains housing policy at Baghdad meet

BAGHDAD, March 19 (JNA). — The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim Ayyoub said Saturday that the Jordanian Government has built houses for people of low, limited and medium income brackets.

Abu Odeh receives U.N. team

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, in his capacity as head of the Executive Bureau of Occupied Territories Affairs, Saturday received the World Health Organisation fact-finding committee here on a short visit to investigate the health and living conditions of the Arab population in the occupied lands.

Public Security urges foreigners to obtain permit

AMMAN (JNA). — The Directorate of Public Security has asked private companies, institutions and all other concerned parties not to employ any foreign labourer unless he gets an annual residence permit.

ARAR RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar returned here from Saudi Arabia Saturday at the end of a two-day visit, during which he discussed with officials there a number of matters of mutual interest.

Housing Bank head seeks Kuwaiti funds

AMMAN (JNA). — The Director of the Housing Bank, Mr. Zuheir Khouri, met Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Ali in Kuwait Saturday.

NOTICE

On April 4-6 a representative of the IRS will visit American Embassy in Amman to give income tax assistance. U.S. citizens may phone 44371 ext. 230 to schedule appointment.

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Advertisement for Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, newly opened, Chinese cuisine, 111, 92 2753 Rabbit Nasra St.

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U.N. Water Conference spotlights shortcomings in water development

Efficiency in the use of water for irrigation is under 50 per cent, according to a programme put before the U.N. World Water Conference now being held in Argentina. A variety of shortcomings has led to the production of less food from irrigated land than is possible.

A seven-point action programme being put as part of Britain's submission to the World Water Conference now going on in Mar del Plata, Argentina, criticises irrigation practices and planning in many developing countries.

The programme was developed at a small workshop held at Britain's Kent University and attended by 35 international experts, 12 of them from eight countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The experts point to the proliferation of irrigation projects in developing countries during the past ten years. The poten-

tial for the production of food and other crops through many of these projects appears enormous -- not least because of advances in agricultural technology.

"It is, however, surprising and alarming," says the document, "to find that the performance of the great majority of these projects, especially those relying on gravity flow, fall far short of expectations and potential."

"It is rare indeed to find economists' cost-benefit calculations justified, planners' expectations fulfilled or governments' targets achieved."

Evidence produced showed water use efficiency of most irrigation projects was less than 50 per cent. They have brought under effective cultivation much less land than was estimated and this newly irrigated land has usually produced poorer yields.

Minor canalisation and other work on the farms is often left incomplete. Water deliveries to farmers are often unreliable and inequitable, with some receiving more than their fair share and some less.

All these shortcomings have led to the production of less food from irrigated land than is possible.

The lessons have not yet been learnt. Many governments still give priority to prestige projects which tempt donor agencies and boost the egos of engineers, civil servants and political leaders.

Far too little attention is paid to how they will be managed and operated. Once a government is committed to a project of this kind, it is rare for it to be abandoned no matter how adverse a subsequent appraisal.

Anthony Bottrall, head of the Agricultural Administration Unit of Britain's Independent and Forthright Overseas Development Institute, emphasises the losses resulting from these tendencies. "New projects are indeed sometimes fully justified in terms of national needs or regional equity but their temptations should be recognised and they should be undertaken with much more circumspection than in the past."

Better management of existing irrigation systems usually has three major consequences: It greatly helps to increase domestic food supplies; it saves foreign exchange spent on food imports; and it improves the incomes and security of large numbers of farmers provided with better irrigation.

The action programme being presented at the World Water Conference embraces seven main points. Their central objective is to ensure for irrigation farmers a reliable and adequate supply of water.

The first step must be an evaluation of current irrigation performance, covering the political and administrative factors which can affect operational decisions as well as the technical aspects. It must be concerned with the management of the staff who control and issue the water and with the farmers' problems and incentives. The main thrust must obviously be towards practical improvements in existing management.

The second point deals with the prestige and resources needed for efficient operation and maintenance of irrigation projects. Operation and maintenance are far less glamorous than design, planning and construction, yet without them, irrigation collapses.

The experts suggest special cadres -- for example of agricultural engineers who can bridge the gap between agronomy and engineering and help co-ordinate the functions of water supply and agricultural planning and advice.

The prestige, morale and performance of staff at all levels need to be boosted. Better terms of service are needed, better in-service training, more public rewards and high level political recognition.

And none of these measures will succeed without adequate technical resources for operation and maintenance. In this connection, the whole basis of national and international financing of projects needs to be examined as well as the collection of irrigation dues, which is often sadly ineffective.

The third point discusses the political support needed for necessary but unpopular measures to secure efficient irrigation.

For example, equitable and productive management often demands the reduction of supplies to some farmers so that others can have more.

This may mean discipline within official organisations, resistance of staff to bribes and legal backing -- with teeth -- for legal measures. Strangely the programme is silent on the need for efficient, far-reaching and truly humane public relations. An ambitious scheme based on small dams in Botswana failed for lack of this.

Closely linked with public relations is the programme's fourth point -- the need for adequate agricultural extension service is grossly inadequate in numbers and skills.

Farmers are given little effective training in the water management. In most countries, there is an acute shortage of senior extension staff with specialist knowledge of the relationships between plants, water and soil and of water application techniques.

Few junior extension officers are taught the principles and techniques of water management. It is simplified terms which they can easily pass on to the farmers.

Suggestion no. 5 is for the creation of small irrigation groups to promote close communication between officials and farmers. They could be used both to transmit technical training and services and to supervise local operation and maintenance. They must be locally organised and based on local custom and practices.

The sixth point is designed to foster modernisation, intensification and expansion. The

experts point out that on many projects there is considerable scope for achieving production and equity objectives through physical modernisation through intensification of cropping and water use and through expansion of the irrigated area.

Remarkably high dividends are often to be gained from rehabilitating medium-sized and

small irrigation systems, usually of relatively simple design and many of them of local construction.

Finally, the Mar del Plata conference is being told that there must be political priority for irrigation. It is often the responsibility of a somewhat minor ministry or department.

In many countries the opportunities are enormous but political action needed, though simple is often considerable.

As the experts stress: many often be necessary for head of government to take a direct personal interest in operation and management. Irrigation is to achieve anything like this potential."

Laser fusion could supply the world's energy needs for ever

San Diego, California (AP). — The laser beam, capable of producing intense energy, has become a universal tool of science, and some researchers say it may be much more -- a key to ending mankind's power shortage.

Carlton Thomas, an engineer, and Irving Liberman, a physicist, say it may be possible to get controlled nuclear fusion using laser beams. The hydrogen bomb is an example of uncontrolled fusion.

If the process, called "laser fusion," can be improved beyond its present state, "it would essentially mean the energy crisis is over for as long as mankind is on this earth," Liberman said.

But the technical problems involved are "enough to make you close your eyes and want to go home," he said.

Laser stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Certain crystals or tubes of gas will produce a coherent, or aligned, beam or pure light when stimu-

lated by light from an outside source.

Federal energy experts have said they doubt any form of nuclear fusion will be workable as a controlled source of energy before the 1990s. But Thomas said he is optimistic.

"There is no physical impediment to doing this," he said. "Admittedly, it is a long way down the road. But it is one of the most exciting experiments of all time."

Thomas is a member of KMS Fusion Inc. of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a private group of 160 scientists working solely on laser fusion, the only private firm in the United States doing so. Liberman is with Westinghouse Research Laboratories.

They presented their views of laser fusion at a Conference on Laser and Electro-optical Systems in San Diego.

Basically, their process involves firing laser beams at small amounts of two hydrogen isotopes, deuterium and tritium, held in tiny glass spheres. The isotopes are readily available in nature.

As the beams strike the

spheres in brief bursts, the isotopes are compressed and heated to more than 100 million degrees centigrade, roughly the temperature of the center of the sun.

The deuterium and tritium atoms are fused, producing helium atoms and releasing millions of neutrons, one of subatomic particles.

A lithium shell around a reactor would soak up the neutrons. The heat could produce steam for turbines to drive generators and produce electricity.

Liberman said there is minimal radioactive waste and large, destructive explosions physically impossible.

Thomas said the energy yield from laser fusion experiments has increased 10,000-fold in the last two years. But he said it is nowhere near the break-even point, where the amount of energy produced would equal energy used to start the process.

"We still need to increase our energy yield 6 million times to reach the scientific break-even point," he said.

THREE BEDROOM APARTMENT IN JABAL AMMAN

British businessman returning to London wishes to sell 6 month's lease from 1st April. Apply at the City Hotel and refer to Mr. Anthony Finnigan.

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Because of leaving, we want to sell furniture to the following rooms: bedrooms; a sitting room; dining room; complete kitchen; reception room. Also for sale: a television, piano and all other household items.

If interested please contact tel. 65878, Amman.

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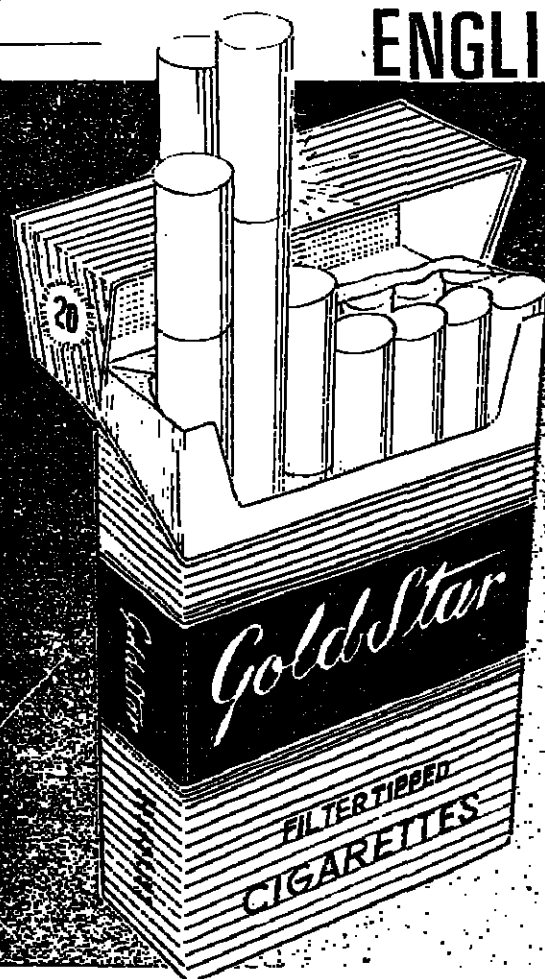
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The best gift you could offer on Mothers' Day.

All kinds of flowers. Decorative plants for indoors & outdoors, imported from Italy & Holland. Plastic vases.

VIRGINIAN BLEND

ENGLISH TYPE



A PERFECT CIGARETTE FOR A PERFECT TASTE

THE Sunday Crossword

(formerly The New York Herald Tribune Crossword) Edited by Herb Ettenson

KEEPING FIT

By Marion Moeser

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A J ♠AK8 ♠83 ♠KQJ743
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—We would not fault you if you rebid three clubs, but to our mind a jump to two no trump is more constructive. Though you have only 18 HCP, your good six-card club suit makes up for any point shortage. Your hand is essentially balanced, and no trump looks like your probable game.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK8 ♠AKQJ74 ♠6 ♠KJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2NT 3♠

What action do you take?
A.—Bid three hearts. Even though your hand may not produce a game, you must take this opportunity to tell partner that your suit is self-sufficient and that you are really not interested in defending against a diamond contract. If partner is completely broke, or has wasted values in diamonds, he is allowed to pass three hearts, for if you had ten tricks in your own hand, you would have bid game yourself.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQJ6 ♠A ♠762 ♠KQ843
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Your hand has begun to look distinctly slammish. However, you are not in a position to

judge its potential—the fate of the hand depends on the quality of partner's diamonds. If you show heart control with a cuebid of three hearts, you advise partner of your interest and put him in a position to make a forward-going move.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠74 ♠1095 ♠AQJ73 ♠A85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Don't pussyfoot around—raise to four hearts. Partner must have a good suit and fair trick-taking ability to overcall at the two-level vulnerable, and you have adequate support, with fine values. A bid of three diamonds would be a waste of time, and three hearts might put too much strain on partner.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK83 ♠KJ106 ♠7 ♠K873
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Double Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Since partner might have next to nothing for his forced response, don't get too excited about your hand. A raise to two hearts is all you can do. That tells him you have better than a minimum takeout double, and invites him to game if he has a working 8 points or so.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♠KQ1054 ♠KJ9762 ♠5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Distributionally, you have a tremendously powerful hand; however, it is aceless, so proceed with care. Since you have already bid freely at the two-level, a jump preference to four diamonds is adequate. If you launch into Blackwood, you run the risk of finding partner with only two aces—what then?

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠872 ♠1093 ♠KJ75 ♠KQ6
Partner opens the bidding with two spades. **What do you respond?**
A.—Facing a demand bid, you have a very powerful holding. There are alternatives: you could either jump to three no trump, or content yourself with a quiet raise to three spades. Since most demand bids in a suit are made on unbalanced hands, we would select three spades, which leaves the most room for further exploration.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



Bakers and scientists are working hand in hand at the Agricultural University of Munich in the Federal Republic of Germany. Every morning bakers and scientists jointly bake several basketsful of fresh rolls intended for research rather than consumption. Director Dr. Gerolf Gmzel (shown with his assistants) uses these rolls to examine traditional and new types of wheat. The higher the protein content of the wheat the better it is -- and the crisper and better the rolls. High quality wheat from the Federal Republic of Germany can achieve a protein content of up to 13 per cent which is among the highest achieved on an international scale. No wheat is permitted to reach the market before it has undergone the baking test in the laboratory.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A time to make constructive plans for the days ahead. Make decisions that can bring added security. Think more in terms of what you personally desire out of life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study how you want the future to trend and how to gain your aims. Attend services of your choice. Think constructively.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on how to improve your relationship with the one you love. A friend can be most helpful to you now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Join good friends and enjoy activities that are mutually pleasurable. Schedule the new week's activities wisely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Study civic matters well and do whatever will add to present prestige. Take no chances with your reputation.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Make plans to have greater abundance in the future. Plan how to pay bills more promptly. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have good hunches today and should couple them with your good judgment for best results. Show true affection for mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Come to a better understanding with those who mean much to you. Attend a social affair and show that you have poise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have unfinished work that should be completed during spare time. Make long-range plans for the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are now able to engage in amusements that are enjoyable. Sidestep one who is a source of irritation to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact regular associates and study new realms of endeavor that could prove profitable in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Loyal friends can be of great assistance to you now. Take time for meditation that can bring you peace of mind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how to add to present abundance but be sure you maintain present security. Take no chances where your reputation is concerned.

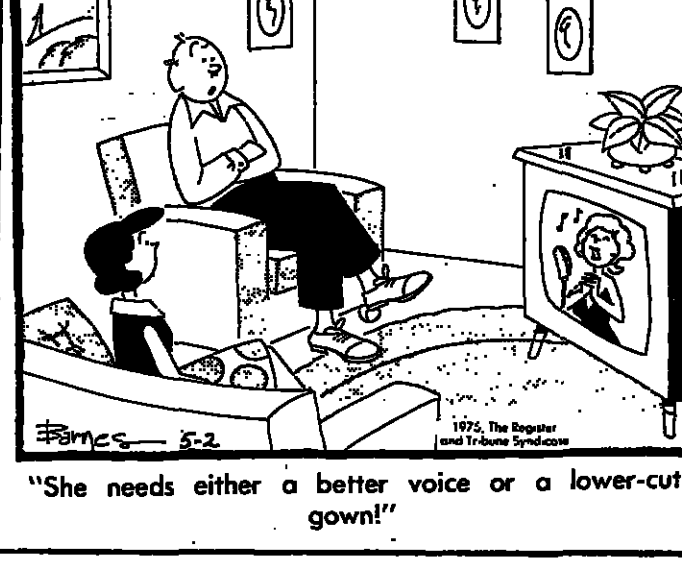
GRAFFITI



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

USHOE

SMACH

NAITLE

CLAMBE

Print surprise answer here:

Answers Tuesday

Jumbles: TOXIC QUOTA OPIATE DINGHY
Answer: A piece of "Chopin" suitable for a dance--A "HOP"

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

ONCE AN EAGLE: CHAPTER SEVEN
Donny enlists in the army while Sam leads his men to victory.

ROCKFORD FILES: THE NO CUT CONTRACT
Rockford is pursued by members of organized crime who think he has a tape which could be used as evidence against them.

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN: BIONIC BOY PT. II
Steve continues to coach young man and enables him to adroitly use his superhuman strength.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person at the Jordan Times—Al Ra'i building, on University Road.

OUT AND ABOUT

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle, Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle, Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema, Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahliyah School or CMS. Tel. 39968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman, Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Windmill sails
- Of the cheek
- Sophisticated
- A departure
- Appalling
- Brazilian tree in the direction of
- Nail with aperture
- Ready for business
- Out-of-the-way
- White
- Muffled

DOWN

- Full apology
- Company of actors
- Recess
- Feather grass genus
- Score in prochie
- Tomahawk
- Behold
- Adjusting
- East Indian com
- Paused
- Impure silica
- Queen of spades
- English river
- Jaunty
- Sir
- Twinge
- Seaweeds
- Retusah
- Vitamin-C fruit
- Warbles
- Verbal
- Metal pin
- The end
- Pitfall
- Road sign
- Sticky substance
- Those in office
- Italian river

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PEANUTS

YOU HIT HIM WITH THE BALL, RUBY!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! MAYBE WE COULD JUST SAY WE FOUND HIS BODY WASHED UP ON SHORE...

THERE'S NO WATER AROUND HERE...

WE COULD SAY HE RAN INTO THE BALL WITH HIS HEAD!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. HAVE YOU?

HE'S PROBABLY A SOLDIER RETURNING TO CAMP...

THE FLINTSTONES

REALLY FLINTSTONE? YOU'RE GETTING IF YOU DON'T GET A RAISE?...

AW, YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD!!

MUTT AND JEFF

"HOW'S THINGS?" SAID ONE FLY TO THE OTHER. "OH, BABY IS SICK," SAID THE OTHER, "HAD TO WALK THE CEILING WITH HIM ALL NIGHT!"

JEFF YOU'RE A REAL KOOK!

OH, THANKS MUTT!

THANKS?-- DO YOU KNOW WHAT A KOOK IS?

YOU BETCHA! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TONIGHT VEAL GOTCHATORY OR SHNITZEL FRITTERS?

Vietnam returns bodies of 12 U.S. soldiers killed in war

VIETNAMESE, March 19 (R). — United States presidential envoy Leonard Woodcock flew here today from Hanoi with the remains of 12 American servicemen killed in the Vietnam war. The bodies will be flown to the United States tomorrow or Monday, via Clark Field Air Force Base in the Philippines, U.S. officials said.

vicemen who went missing during the Indochina wars and another 1,758 known to be dead but whose bodies have not been recovered.

In a statement in Hanoi yesterday, Mr. Woodcock said the mission had "established a mechanism for the provision of additional information on our missing men."

The Vietnamese government raised the question of U.S. economic aid, he said.

West German political crisis brews following bugging scandal

BONN, March 19 (R). — The West German government was today engulfed in a bugging scandal which could force the resignation of a cabinet minister.

The man in the firing line is Interior Minister Werner Maihofer, ultimately responsible for the activities of the West German Office for the Protection of the Constitution — the civilian counter-intelligence organization.

The parliamentary faction of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) to which Prof. Maihofer belongs was scheduled to meet late tonight to discuss developments in the political crisis.

Pressure over the affair — in which listening devices were used in a Stuttgart prison to overhear conversations between three members of the Baader-Meinhof guerrilla group and their lawyers — caused Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to cut short a visit to Spain.

Herr Genscher, leader of the FDP, the junior partner in the West German coalition government, attended a meeting of his party's executive last night. The meeting, which ended shortly before midnight, has served to prepare the ground for today's conference, it was said.

The executives of the FDP's coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party (SPD), and the Conservative opposition Christian Democrats also met yesterday to discuss the affair.

Government spokesman Hans Boelling said the political and

legal responsibility for the eavesdropping lay with the Baden-Wuerttemberg State government which had authorised the action.

But the new bugging affair has proved embarrassing for Dr. Maihofer, who has already had to answer to parliament about a listening device planted in the house of a nuclear scientist, falsely suspected of having connections with terrorists.

Economic issues will dominate Fukuda's U.S. visit

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP). — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda arrives here tomorrow for talks with President Carter expected to be dominated by economic issues.

Japan and the United States are the world's largest overseas trading partners, but the balance runs heavily in Tokyo's favour.

U.S. concern over this imbalance is expected to be one of the first points — and one of the strongest — raised by President Carter during the talks on Monday and Tuesday.

The Commerce Department reported yesterday that the United States imported 2.8 billion dollars worth of Japanese goods last year, an increase of 133 per cent over the previous year. Japan supplied 90 per cent of the sets.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has recommended President Carter to impose tariffs on television imports to protect the domestic industry.

Washington says Zaire invaders deploy Soviet rocket launchers

WASHINGTON, March 19 (R). — Two forces with a number of whites in their ranks have used Soviet-made rocket launchers in their thrust into southern Zaire from Angola, according to official sources here.

The officials estimated the strength of the forces at 2,000 and said they appeared to be heading towards the key mining town of Kolwezi. Zaire has said 5,000 have crossed the border.

The officials said late yesterday that reports placed the invading troops 180 kms. west of Kolwezi, a Zaire force was grouping in Mutshatsha, 100 kms. west of the mining centre, preparing to secure the town.

The U.S. State Department has said that so far five towns are in the hands of the invaders who crossed the Angolan border about 10 days ago in two groups of about 1,000 men each.

Juan Carlos begins 5-day Cairo visit

CAIRO, March 19 (R). — King Juan Carlos of Spain today began informal talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt hours after arriving here at the start of a five-day state visit, the first by a Spanish monarch in modern history.

Observers said the visit underlines the close ties between Spain and the Arab World. After Egypt King Juan Carlos will pay a state visit to Jordan.

King Juan Carlos, accompanied by his wife Queen Sofia, was met at the airport by President and Mrs. Sadat and was immediately taken to the Qubba Palace.

After today's informal talks, the two leaders will hold formal talks tomorrow. Spain has indicated it is prepared to help Egypt in joint projects. An assembly plant for Spanish cars starts production in Egypt later this year.

The trip is the king's first to the Middle East since he came to the throne in November, 1975.

Spain is one of the few non-Arab countries not to have recognised Israel. Earlier this

month it officially recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Madrid. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said in a Spanish television interview, broadcast to coincide with the start of the visit, that Spain could play an important role in the reconstruction of his country.

The Egyptian president there were many things Spain and Egypt could do together and mentioned at the same time that the Spaniards had an important armaments industry.

He also expressed profound gratitude for the stand Spain has traditionally taken on Arab issues and particularly that of Palestine.

Cuba appears to support Ethiopia on Red Sea issue

ADDIS ABABA, March 19 (AFP). — Cuba and Ethiopia have called on "progressive forces" in the Red Sea region to coordinate their struggle against the machinations of imperialism.

In a joint communique published in the Ethiopian press here today, three days after Cuban Premier Fidel Castro ended a brief visit to Ethiopia, the two countries also said that stability in the region requires that the Indian Ocean remain a zone of peace.

The communique said the two sides welcomed "with satisfaction" the fact that France's last colony in Africa, Djibouti, was on the threshold of independence.

They also expressed support for the non-aligned movement, agreed to back liberation movements in Southern Africa, supported the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and a homeland, and condemned imperialism in Latin America, especially in Chile.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Lusaka said today that Zambia is preparing for a possible visit by Dr. Castro only a few days before the arrival

of Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny.

The prospect has strengthened speculation that a major diplomatic offensive in Southern Africa is being mounted by the Kremlin and its allies.

Cuban flags fluttered alongside Zambian standards in the centre of Lusaka today, but Cuban Embassy officials said they had "no hard information" about a visit by Dr. Castro.

Zambian officials declined to confirm or deny that the Cuban leader was expected, but diplomatic sources said the visit was expected to start on Monday. President Podgorny is due to arrive here in a week's time.

Survival of British government may now depend on votes of opposition groups

LONDON, March 19 (R). — The survival of Britain's Labour government looked increasingly dependent today on the support of a few members in the opposition groups.

Prime Minister James Callaghan's administration, fearing a beating in a no-confidence vote in parliament next Wednesday, is attempting to rally support from the minor parties which could keep it in power.

If the censure motion put down by the main opposition party, the conservatives is approved, however, Mr. Callaghan would be bound to resign. A general election would follow in April or May.

Intensive behind-the-scenes lobbying of the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists, Ulster Unionists, and Liberals is now under way by Labour ministers, and also by Conservative politicians determined to topple the government.

Labour and its allies can normally command 314 votes in the House of Commons. The combined opposition parties have 315 but defections or absences have prevented the government with narrow victories in the past on crucial votes in parliament.

The crunch situation has arisen because of the government's instructions to its Labour members of parliament on Thursday not to vote on an opposition procedural motion which it risked losing. The protest motion, put after a critical debate on the government's latest cuts in state spending, was carried by 293 votes to nil.

Mr. Callaghan's tactics angered conservative leader Margaret Thatcher, who described the episode as "defeat with dishonour" and said of the government: "There is not a man or woman of principle left in it." The next morning she slapped down her party's motion of no confidence in the government.

Mr. Callaghan yesterday acknowledged the seriousness of the forthcoming vote. "This is the moment of truth," he told reporters, and he added in an unusually hesitant manner: "I hope we shall win; we deserve to win."

Excited political commentators today talked of "election fever" in parliament but most of the action was taking place in private consultations and group briefings. The minority parties are holding meetings in the next few days to decide their position. The wheeling and dealing is likely to continue until the actual vote on Wednesday night.

SPANISH DAILY: CARRILLO FACES PARTY REBELLION

MADRID, March 19 (AFP). — Two hundred pro-Soviet militant members of the Spanish Communist Party have accused party leader Santiago Carrillo of "treason" towards Moscow and have demanded his expulsion from the party.

The Catholic daily Ya said today the rebellious Communists sent a letter recently to Mr. Carrillo, criticising him and other "Eurocommunist" party members for their alleged violent attacks on the Soviet Communist Party and the socialist countries.

The signatories of the letter claimed that the secretary general had become a major obstacle in the party's fight "for democracy and socialism." Senior Carrillo's revisionist leadership must be destroyed and the party must return to the Marxist-Leninist way towards honesty and the revolutionary struggle, the protesters urged.

Vance to discuss Cyprus in Moscow, paper reports

NICOSIA, March 19 (R). — The Communist newspaper Haravghi reported today that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance would discuss Cyprus when Mr. Vance goes to Moscow on March 26.

It also said the Soviet Union had made a new call on the United States for a Cyprus settlement based on United Nations declarations.

The Soviet Ambassador here, Mr. Sergei Astavina, met President Makarios of Cyprus earlier this week and left today for consultations in Moscow. Haravghi said the Soviet call

was for a solution to the problems of the divided island in line with U.N. policy and the 1974 statement by the then U.S. President Gerald Ford and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev.

The Ford-Brezhnev declaration issued after their meeting in Vladivostok in November 1974, expressed firm support for "the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus." U.N. policy calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops, the return home of refugees and talks between the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* MODENA, Italy, March 19 (R). — Signor Enzo Ferrari, one of the most famous figures in the history of motor racing has resigned as president of the company that carries his name, the company announced here today. The company said Signor Ferrari had communicated his decision in a letter to the board of directors.

* NAIROBI, March 19 (R). — Uganda's Anglican bishops have appointed a successor in Archbishop Janani Lumumba, killed a month ago after being arrested in connection with an alleged plot against President Idi Amin. Uganda Radio monitored here today said the Rt. Rev. Silvano Wani, formerly Bishop of Madi and West Nile, was elected in Namirembe Cathedral, Kampala, yesterday to become archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire.

* AMMAN, March 19 (R). — Saudi Arabia has received a number of warships, Riyadh Radio reported today. In a broadcast monitored here, the radio said: "Prince Turki Abdul Aziz, the Deputy Minister of Defence, returned to Riyadh last night after inspecting installations at the naval base of Jubail in the eastern province, and some of the ships which recently arrived in Saudi Arabia." The radio did not mention the number of the warships or their country of origin.

* WEST BERLIN, March 19 (R). — The son of Hitler's former Deputy Rudolf Hess yesterday visited his father and later defied a rule barring him from talking about the Spandau prison here where the 82-year-old Herr Hess is the sole prisoner. On leaving the grim red-brick jail after a 30-minute visit, Herr Wolf Ruediger Hess told reporters he had been warned that the visits might be stopped if he continued talking to the press.

* TUNIS, March 19 (R). — The Union of Tunisian Engineers has voted for an unlimited strike to protest against the arrest of their Secretary General, Mohabed Bel Hadj Amor. His colleagues said his arrest was connected with the distribution of tracts by a secret organisation called the "Movement of Popular Unity." No further details were available.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Drought threatens harvest in north China

By Georges Bianchi

PEKING, March 19 (AFP). — The summer harvest in parts of northern China is seriously threatened by a severe drought after an unusually cold spell.

The general mobilisation of peasants in those regions has been proclaimed to fight the effects of the drought, according to the official press which has launched a campaign against absenteeism and red tape in People's communes.

The party newspaper the People's Daily earlier this week reported that the situation in one of China's top grain-producing areas was serious particularly the region between the Yellow River and Huai, further south. This region includes the Provinces of Shantung, Shansi, Honan and Hopei.

The People's Daily devoted front-page articles to the problems there, blaming them on

"sabotage" by the "gang of four", headed by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow Chang Ching and on natural disasters since last autumn.

The daily said a mass mobilisation of cadres and peasants was under way to carry out irrigation work, dig wells, build reservoirs and dams on mountain streams and think up "a thousand new ways" to irrigate the land.

At the same time, stocks of organic fertilisers should be built up to cover as much land as possible at a time that the People's Daily said, was crucial for the new growth of winter wheat.

Illustrating the extent of the mobilisation of the masses, the People's Daily said that in the east coast province of Shantung, one of China's important wheat-producing provinces and also one of the most densely populated regions, the Provin-

cial Party Committee had held a special conference to "get the entire population into action quickly."

On the theme of "big drought, big efforts" the Party Committee mobilised 17.5 million peasants to "fight the drought at the right time" by irrigating and fertilising large areas of land, it said.

Hopei Province set up 35,000 teams to fight the drought while 12 million people were put to work on the same task in Honan, central China, the People's Daily added.

China will import more wheat this year than in 1975 and 1976 because of low stocks, a poor autumn harvest last year, a particularly cold winter and the present drought according to specialists here. They said wheat would be imported from Australia, Canada and Argentina.

For the first time since the purge last October of the "radicals" in the "gang of four," the People's Daily stated quite clearly that during this difficult time political studies should take second place and called for a reduction in the number of "unproductive personnel" in communes.

The newspaper said: "Political study and recreational and cultural activities in Tachai (a model agricultural production brigade in Shansi) have been carried out in leisure time and they have been done well."

In rural areas, such activities should be carried in leisure time, it said. "In this very busy season of spring ploughing, it is even more imperative to strengthen the agricultural forefront" and strive for a good harvest this year, the article added.

The People's Daily illustrated the problem of "unproductive personnel" with the example of a small commune in Shansi where only 25 per cent of the active population was working in the fields.

The article said, "there are many people in the commune's administration sitting idly doing nothing."

Britain won't ban saccharine

LONDON, March 19 (AFP). — Saccharine will not be banned in Britain for the moment, Minister of Agriculture John Silkin said last night.

He told the House of Commons that, in the light of information available at present, he saw no reason to follow the examples of the United States and Canada, which have forbidden consumption of this artificial sweetener.

But Mr. Silkin undertook to review the problem when the result of new tests had been analysed.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 19 (AFP). — U.S. businessman Cyrus Eaton is negotiating to build a tourist complex of 3,000 rooms on the northeast coast of Cuba, it was reported here today. The project would cost an estimated \$200 million. Cuba will soon have a shortage of hotel rooms because of the U.S. government's decision to let Americans travel to that island, Mr. Eaton explained yesterday after a trip to Cuba.

* AMMAN, March 19 (R). — Riyadh Radio said today that Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry and Electric Power, Dr. Ghazi Abdul Rahman Al Qusaibiy, returned home last night from visits to Taiwan and South Korea. His talks with Taiwan officials resulted in an agreement for the electrification of Al Baha area. South Korea would implement a similar project in Assir, the radio added.

* KUWAIT, March 19 (R). — Kuwaiti and Romanian officials today began their fourth and last round of negotiations on the setting up of a \$1,000 million joint petrochemical complex on Romania's Black Sea coast. Kuwaiti oil officials said that among experts attending the discussions were representatives of a French consultancy firm which studied the project on behalf of the two countries. Agreement to launch the joint venture was reached during a visit to Kuwait by a Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

* ROME, March 19 (R). — Italy's main oil company AGIP last night announced that it had signed a protocol with Vietnam to explore and produce oil there. An AGIP spokesman said it was the first time that such a protocol had been signed by a Western oil company with Hanoi. He gave no details but said AGIP, which is part of the state-owned ENI group of companies, often operated in oil countries through joint companies by agreement with state oil agencies. A company statement said the protocol was signed with the state agency Petrovietnam during a visit by a Vietnamese delegation here headed by Oil Minister Dinh Duc Thien.

British Leyland's future hangs in financial balance

LONDON, March 19 (AFP). — A question mark hung over the future of Britain's largest car maker this weekend as Leyland Motors Company geared up at the end of a month-long strike by 3,000 toolmakers.

The strike, to back a pay demand, had brought production to a virtual standstill, halting work on all but six of the state-owned firm's current 18 models. More than 40,000 other Leyland workers had been made idle by the stoppage, which toolmakers voted to end on Friday.

It was expected that production would take at least a week to return to normal in the best of cases. But regardless of the speed with which output is restored, the government has announced that it will carry out a thorough review of its commitment to the company, nationalised two years ago.

Earlier this month, the Labour government warned that if the strike were not settled promptly it would throttle the supply of public funds partly responsible for keeping the financially troubled company afloat.

According to the Financial Times, the strike cost Leyland about £100 million pounds in lost production, or more than it earned in the 15-month period from September 1975 to December 1976.

Leyland, which is changing its accounting base, reported preliminary pre-tax profit of £70.5 million for the period, primarily due to overseas sales

following the decline in the value of sterling.

Sir Richard Dobson, Chairman of the company's board, has made it clear that the company will resist any attempts by the government to take over the emergency plan for the future now being prepared.

He said a report on prospects for Leyland would be handed over by the end of next month to the National Enterprise Board (NEB), which holds 95 per cent of the company's shares and controls it for the government.

Observers believed that changes in Leyland's structure could be under consideration. One such change could be reduction of auto production, which has been a money-losing activity, while the truck and bus groups as well as special products have turned profits.

But the company has already begun badgering the NEB for fresh funds to finance production of a new compact model, the Mini, scheduled for marketing at the end of 1979.

Observers nevertheless suggested that Leyland might be forced to halt production of several current models, resulting in the dismissal of several thousand workers.

Straight off, the car maker's goal will be to get the goods rolling off the assembly lines to meet spring-time orders at home and abroad.

Speaking of the outlook, board Chairman Dobson yesterday said: "We are not on the edge of the precipice but we can see it."

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